
V. Grants, Loans, Technical Assistance, and Partnerships

Grants, loans, technical assistance, and partnership opportunities, although temporary, can augment and multiply conservation efforts already in place at the federal, state, local and private levels. Federal and state agencies provide a variety of grants and loans as well as technical assistance for locally funding programs. Public and private foundations such as the Coastal America Program and the Clean Texas 2000 Program provide grants and partnership opportunities to fund environmental conservation projects.

Grants are attractive because they do not require repayment, however, they do have limitations. Most of the grants discussed in this report require an applicant match. Many grant programs are competitive, others are allocated on a formula basis. Grants and loans for conservation activities have specific, and often narrow guidelines regarding applicant eligibility and use of the funds. Although loans must be paid back, government loan programs such as the State Revolving Fund are attractive because they offer a lower interest rate than commercial loans. In general, grants and loans should not be relied on for funding of long term administrative obligations, but should be used to fund, or to augment funding, of specific projects.

Federal agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, NOAA, USGS, USDA and the USFWS offer assistance in the form of technical expertise and "in kind" or work effort in place of financial assistance to projects. Many federal programs award grants or allocate funds to state agencies, who administer the programs for the state. Other federal grant programs are not "passed through" to the state, rather, proposers can apply directly to the federal agency for them. The Galveston Bay Program, as well as other state agencies and programs that will implement actions recommended in the Galveston Bay Plan can consult Appendix A as well as the Action Plan and Priority Funding Strategies in this report for information on federal grant and technical assistance programs available to state agencies. Local governments and districts can consult Appendix B as well as the Action Plan and Priority Funding Strategies for information on state administered grant, technical assistance, and loan programs. State agencies, local governments, non profit groups, universities and other organizations are often eligible for various research grants available from federal agencies. Programs relevant to *The Galveston Bay Plan* are described in the Research section of the Action Plan and Priority Funding Strategies. These same groups are often eligible to participate in Partnership Programs, or to apply for foundation grants. Relevant partnerships and foundations are included in the Habitat Protection Section of the Action Plan and Priority Funding Strategies. A comprehensive description of partnerships and foundations with missions compatible with those of *The Galveston Bay Plan* has been compiled in Appendix C.

State Agency Administration of Federal Grant Programs. When federal grants are passed through to the state for administration, they are generally awarded to the state agency responsible for activities eligible for funding from those programs. Generally, the state entities eligible for federal grants have a mission and responsibilities that are compatible with the mission and responsibilities of the granting federal agency. For example, the USFWS passes through its programs to the TPWD, the designated state agency responsible for wildlife management. The National Park Service passes through its programs to the TPWD because it is the state agency in charge of park program administration.

EPA Programs. In Texas, at least two agencies receive grants from the EPA. The EPA awards some grants to TNRCC, and others to the TWDB. TNRCC coordinates water quality planning in Texas, and is responsible for administering programs related to the Texas Water Code and the Federal Clean Water Act, as well as permitting and monitoring. TNRCC administers EPA's Water Quality Management Planning Program, as well as Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants (§319). EPA also grants TNRCC Water Pollution Control State Support and Wetlands Protection State Support Funds. TNRCC is eligible to receive funds from EPA's NPDES Grant Program, even though TNRCC does not administer the NPDES program in Texas at this time.

The EPA awards TWDB its Capitalization Grant for the State Water Pollution Revolving Fund Loan (SRF) program. Local governments can apply for low interest loans from the TWDB administered SRF. The SRF offers low interest loans to political subdivisions for the construction of waste water treatment works, nonpoint source pollution control projects, and estuary pollution control projects. TWDB administers other financial assistance programs financed through state backed bonds as well as federal grants. These programs provide funding to local governments for water supply development, wastewater planning and treatment, flood control, municipal solid waste management, and agricultural water conservation projects.

NOAA Programs. NOAA awards its Coastal Zone Administration funds to the designated state agency for coastal management. In Texas, this agency is the GLO. NMFS and the TPWD administer NOAA's fisheries and habitat conservation funds. Texas A&M's Sea Grant College Program administers NOAA's Sea Grant Program.

USFWS Programs. In Texas, the TPWD administers USFWS programs such as Sport Fish Restoration, The Clean Vessel Act, Wildlife Restoration, and the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act.

USDA Programs. The Local ASCS administers USDA programs such as the Wetlands Reserve Program, which is an important mechanism for financing wetlands protection on private lands.

Private and Non-Profit Sources. Three organizations of note that could provide grants for Galveston Bay Plan actions are located in Texas. They are the Hoblitzelle Foundation, located in Dallas, the Moody Foundation, located in Galveston, the Margaret Cullinan Wray Charitable Lead Annuity Trust, and the Galveston Bay Foundation, both located in Houston. The Hoblitzelle Foundation has awarded grants to the Nature Conservancy, Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas, and the Texas Wildlife Foundation. The Moody Foundation has awarded grants to the Clean Galveston program and the Texas Agricultural Experimentation Station at Uvalde. The Margaret Cullinan Wray Charitable Lead Annuity Trust awards grants for education and environmental conservation, including water pollution control; resource conservation and reuse; habitat and species protection; and aesthetic and recreational improvements. The fund has awarded grants to the Citizen's Environmental Coalition in Houston, the Galveston Bay Foundation, the Houston Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and Texas A&M University Development Foundation. The Fund awards small seed grants for start-up costs to groups with grassroots origins, volunteer participation, and advocacy and educational goals.

Among foundations of national scope, Philip Morris's Corporate Contributions Program supports projects related to education, conservation and the environment. Examples include projects that promote stewardship of water resources, protection of farmlands, improvement of waste management techniques, collaboration in the development of public policies and programs; and education about environmental preservation and resource management. The RJR Nabisco Foundation supports a variety of educational, environmental, and health programs. A major thrust of their recent funding efforts has been on education.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquires wetlands and ecologically sensitive areas. TNC is a landowner that purchases properties with membership funds. Primarily, TNC serves as a broker for state and federal agencies to acquire land and then sell it back to governments. Other arrangements include easement purchases and management agreements with private landowners.

